

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 493

By Turner J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend LaSherlette Jones,
recipient of the 2013 Jefferson Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated their professional careers and personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, LaSherlette Jones is one such estimable person who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, she is one of ten unsung heroes in Memphis to receive the “Nobel Prize” for outstanding community and public service --The 2013 Jefferson Award; and

WHEREAS, throughout her exemplary tenure with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Youth Council, LaSherlette Jones has distinguished herself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and an exceptional asset to her community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones took on the role of Youth Advisor for the NAACP Youth Council in 2007; since she took the position, the Youth Council has grown to more than two hundred active members; and

WHEREAS, under LaSherlette Jones’s leadership, the Youth Council has received state, regional, and national awards, reflecting a collaborative effort between the students, the Memphis branch of NAACP, parents, the faith-based community, and partnerships with local businesses; and

WHEREAS, these recognitions include: National Youth Council of the Year (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011); National Issue Award In Health (2010, 2011); National Issue Award in Juvenile Justice (2010, 2011); National Issue Award in Voter Empowerment (2009, 2010, 2011); National

Issue Award in Education (2009, 2011); National Issue Award in Economic Development (2011); National Issue Award for National Initiatives (2009, 2011); First Place National Membership Laydown (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012); and First Place Lucille Black Award for the Highest Total Membership Production (2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012); and

WHEREAS, on the state and regional level, the Youth Council received the following recognitions: Southeast Region Youth Council of the Year (2010); Youth Communications Award (2008); Tennessee State Youth Council of the Year (2009, 2010); First Place in Membership Laydown (2010); and

WHEREAS, with Ms. Jones's assistance, the NAACP Youth Council has partnered with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital to present three health initiatives: an HIV/AIDS awareness program, a "Know Your Sickle Status" program, and the "Every Child Deserves a 1st Birthday" infant mortality program; and

WHEREAS, LaSherlette Jones values innovative thinking and quality leadership, while never losing sight of the dignity and worth of every member of the community; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Jones's outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, LaSherlette Jones's previous individual recognitions include being named the 2008 Tennessee State NAACP Youth Advisor of the Year, the 2010 Southeast Region NAACP Youth Advisor of the Year, and the 2010 National NAACP Youth Advisor of the Year; and

WHEREAS, LaSherlette Jones is a capable and vibrant leader; she has served as a mentor to underprivileged students, as a volunteer for ARC of the Mid-South, as a collection coordinator for Toys for Tots, and as a "loaned executive" with the United Way of the Mid-South; and

WHEREAS, she is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people who life has treated unkindly, and she epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, LaSherlette Jones is wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor LaSherlette Jones upon her winning the 2013 Jefferson Award and commend her for her efforts with the NAACP and her honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.